



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

October 25, 2002

Applicant: Hiroaki KITAMOTO

For: CAPPING METHOD AND APPARATUS

Serial No.: 09/777 378

Group: 3721

Confirmation No.: 8381

Filed: February 6, 2001 Examiner: Nash

Atty. Docket No.: Kanzaki Case 161

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 15, 2002,
Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following
amendments:

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with the new Abstract of the
Disclosure enclosed herewith. A marked-up copy is enclosed.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows. A marked-up
copy of the amended paragraphs is enclosed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 2,
and ending on page 2, line 7, with the following rewritten
paragraph:

According to the conventional method, the incipient
position of a meshing engagement between both threads is
determined on the basis of the magnitude of descent of the
cap, and this, disadvantageously, requires the provision of
means for detecting the descent. Such detecting means would
include a vertically slid able component, which undergoes an
abrasion, thus presenting a problem in respect of durability.